



This story is from Lahore in Pakistan where children work in the brick making industry to pay off a debt owed by their family. This is known as 'bonded labour' which is the most widespread form of slavery in the world today.

"My name is Ashique. I am 11 years old and have been working in the brick kilns for the past six years with my father and three brothers. My father borrowed 20,000 rupees (about £400) to pay for my sister's marriage

and now we have to work hard to pay off the loan.

I work every day except Sunday. My father, brothers and myself are paid 30 rupees (50p) for every 1000 bricks. We can make around 2,500 - 3000 bricks in a day. Our wage is cut by 50 per cent for loan repayments. We do not understand the loan interest, which seems to be always increasing. We work from around 2am - when it is still dark - until 6 or 7pm in the evening. We have a short rest of half an hour between 7 and 8 am. I am given no time to play. My father sent me to school, but after three months the kiln owner took me out of school and put me back to work. I liked going to school. I liked being free."

Source: <http://www.antislavery.org/homepage/resources/educational.htm#link2>

A. Find out in the text words that have the same meaning of:

1. liquidate \_\_\_\_\_
2. credit \_\_\_\_\_
3. salary \_\_\_\_\_
4. growing \_\_\_\_\_
5. interval \_\_\_\_\_

B. Complete the sentences with information from the text:

1. Ashique works \_\_\_\_\_

2. The reason why Ashique has to work is \_\_\_\_\_

3. Ashique doesn't receive the entire salary because \_\_\_\_\_.

4. Ashique can't play because \_\_\_\_\_

**C.** Answer the following questions:

1. Ashique liked school. Why do you think that he liked school so much?

---

---

2. In your opinion, who's the main responsible for Ashique early employment?

---

---

